

Overlap of risk factors for SIDS and child physical abuse

James K. Ribe, MD

Senior DME

Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner

SIDS RISK FACTORS (overlap underlined)

Infant risk factors

Male sex

Age 1 – 4 months

No prenatal care

Prematurity

Low birth weight

NICU admission

Family risk factors

Single mother

Young mother

Parity

Short interpregnancy interval

History of previous stillbirth or infant death

Previous DCFS referral

Prenatal alcohol intake

Postpartum depression

Environmental risk factors

Prone or side sleep

Soft bedding

Head covered

Adult bed

Bedsharing

Smoking

Overheating

Signs of upper respiratory infection

Sociodemographic risk factors

Poverty area
Unemployment
Education less than 12th grade
African-American / Native American race

CHILD ABUSE RISK FACTORS (overlap underlined)

Child risk factors

Male sex
Age under 2 years
Premature
Low birth weight
Disability
Malnutrition
Developmental or behavioral problems

Family risk factors

Single mother
Young maternal age
Unrelated adults in the home
Significant life event
Caregiver role conflicts
Lack of bonding
Domestic violence
Parental history of abuse as a child
Substance abuse
Previous DCFS referral
History of unexplained infant deaths
More than two siblings
Social isolation
Step-, foster-, or adoptive parents
Low social support at birth

Environmental risk factors

Overcrowding

Smoking

Sociodemographic risk factors

Neighborhood drug use

Neighborhood alcohol availability

Low income

Parental education < 12th grade

African-American, Hispanic, Native American race

Caregiver risk factors

Inappropriate expectations

Lack of empathy for the child's needs

Belief in physical punishment

Parental role reversal

Mental health problems

Sources

California SIDS Program web site: <http://californiasids.cdph.ca.gov/Universal/Homepage.html>

Radiographic Atlas of Child Abuse: a case studies approach. Harris VJ, Lorand MA, Fitzpatrick JJ, Soter DK. New York: Igaku-Shoin, 1996. ISBN 0-89640-258-4

Leach CEA, Blair PS, Fleming PJ et al., Epidemiology of SIDS and explained sudden infant deaths. *Pediatrics* 1999 Oct; 104(4): e43

Stiffman MN, Schnitzer PG, Adam P et al., Household composition and risk of fatal child maltreatment. *Pediatrics* 2001 Apr; 109(4): 615-621

Hussey JM, Chang JJ, Kotch JB. Child Maltreatment in the United States: prevalence, risk factors, and adolescent health consequences. *Pediatrics* 2006 Sep; 118(3): 933-942

Distinguishing SIDS from Child Abuse Fatalities. American Academy of Pediatrics. Kent P. Hymel, and the Committee on Child Abuse & Neglect, and National Association of Medical Examiners. *Pediatrics* 2006 Jul; 118(1): 421-427

Pasquale-Styles MA, Tackitt PL, Schmidt CJ. Infant death scene investigation and the assessment of potential risk factors for asphyxia: a review of 209 sudden unexpected infant deaths. *J Forensic Sci* 2007; 52(4): 924-929

Evaluation of suspected child physical abuse. Nancy D Kellogg, MD, and the Committee on Child Abuse & Neglect, American Academy of Pediatrics. *Pediatrics* 2007 Jun; 119(6): 1232-1241

Child Abuse: Medical Diagnosis and Management, 3rd edition. Reece RM and Christian CW. American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009

Trachtenberg FL, Haas EA, Kinney HC, Stanley C, Krous HF. *Pediatrics* 2012; 129(4): 630-638

O'Leary CM, Jacoby PJ, Bartu A et al., Maternal alcohol use and sudden infant death syndrome and infant mortality excluding SIDS. *Pediatrics* 2013 Mar 1; 131(3): e770-e778